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I, LEANNE MYNOTT, MANAGER EXAMINATION SUPPORT AND SALES hereby certify that annexed is a true copy of the Provisional specification in connection with Application No. 2003905645 for a patent by JOHN SZYMANSKI as filed on 15 October 2003.



WITNESS my hand this
Twenty-fifth day of October 2004

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PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION

Invention Title: "Retrieval Aid"

The invention is described in the following statement:

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"Retrieval Aid"

Field of the Invention

This invention relates to a retrieval aid.

Background Art

- 5 The invention is intended to be used with a line having an object at the end whereby the aid can be utilised to retrieve the object in the event that it becomes engaged at a position at which it cannot be readily accessed. An example of an application of the invention relates to retrieval aid which can be utilised in association with a fishing line in order to retrieve a fish hook or lure that may
- 10 have become snagged. Another application of the aid relates to a means which can be utilised to engage and retrieve a fishing hook that may have become embedded in the body or skin of an animal such as a fish, bird or the like. Another example of an application of the embodiment relates to a device which could be utilised in association with a kite in order to retrieve the kite from a
- 15 raised structure such as a tree, roof or the like without the necessity to climb the tree or roof to retrieve the device.

Disclosure of the Invention

Accordingly the invention resides in a retrieval aid intended for use with a flexible line having an object located at the end of the line, the retrieval aid comprising a

- 20 shaft having a line engagement member mounted at one end, said member being readily engagable with the line whereby when engaged with the line the member surrounds the line and is capable of movement along the line.

According to a preferred feature of the invention the member is of an annular configuration. According to a preferred feature of the invention the member is

- 25 supported from the one end of the shaft to extend to one side of the shaft. According to a preferred feature of the invention the plane of the member is inclined to the central axis of the shaft and extends from the end of the shaft.

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According to a preferred feature of the invention the member is formed as a coil comprising more than one turn. According to a preferred feature of the invention the turns are closely adjacent. According to a particular embodiment of the invention the coil comprises a complete first turn and a partial second turn.

- 5 According to a preferred feature of the invention a member is formed with an opening in its circumference and the opening is associated with a closure to provide access into and out of the interior of the member.

According to a preferred feature of the invention the shaft is extendable.

According to a preferred feature of the invention the shaft is resiliently flexible.

- 10 According to a preferred feature of the invention the shaft supports a retention member which is slideable along the shaft and a cord which is fixed at one end to the retention member, the shaft being formed to prevent disengagement of the retention member from either end of the shaft.

According to a preferred feature of the invention said member has a dimension

- 15 less than the object supported by the line.

The invention will be more fully understood in the light of the following description of the specific embodiment.

Brief Description of the Drawings

The description is made with reference to the accompanying drawings of which:

- 20 Figure 1 is a schematic illustration of a retention aid according to the embodiment;

Figure 2 is a side elevation of the line engagement member according to the embodiment;

Figure 3 is an opposite side elevation to that of Figure 2;

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Figure 4 is a rear elevation of the line retention member according to the embodiment; and

Figure 5 is a plan view of the line engagement member according to the embodiment.

5 Detailed Description of Specific Embodiment

The embodiment is directed to a retrieval aid which is intended to be used by fly fishermen in order to facilitate the retrieval of a snagged lure. The embodiment will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings which should be appreciated are illustrative only.

10 The retrieval aid according to the embodiment comprises a shaft 11, a line engagement member 13 at one end of the shaft 11, a retention member 15 which is slidably supported along the shaft 11 and a cord or lanyard 17 which is connected to the retention member 15.

15 The shaft is formed of a suitable flexible material such as fibre glass or other like fibre reinforced plastics and is flexible throughout its length. At one end the shaft supports the line engagement member 13 and is provided with one half of a coupling 21 at its other end. In addition the shaft is formed of several inter-engagable sections having complementary couplings 21 at each end in order to facilitate the extension of the shaft as required by the user.

20 The line engagement member 13 which is shown in Figure 1 in an enlarged form relative to the shaft comprises a coil member having approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ turns with turns in close abutting relationship where one end of the coil is mounted to one end of the shaft 11. The other end of the coil is divergent outwardly from the remainder of the coil and as a result the free end 16 of the coil is offset from the 25 main body of the coil in that it extends axially and generally tangentially outwardly from the main body as is shown at Figures 3, 4 and 5. This serves to in use prevent the line form being engaged between the turns of the coil and disengage completely once the line retention means is engaged on the line.

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The retrieval aid is intended to facilitate the retrieval of a fishing lure in the event that it becomes snagged. In such an event the line engagement member 13 is engaged with the line by introducing the line into the entry 19 which is defined at the junction between the line engagement member 13 and the shaft 11 and then

5 between the turns of the engagement member 13 to cause the line to become received within the confines of the coil. Once the engagement member is engaged with the line it can be moved along the length of the line whilst the shaft is being held by the user until such time as the coil reaches the lure at the free end of the line. Once the engagement member is engaged with the lure, the

10 shaft can then be manipulated to cause the coil to engage the lure and effect its disengagement from the snag or like obstruction without placing any undue stress on the line itself which could result in a loss of the lure.

The line retention member 15 is slidably received on the shaft 11 and is associated with the lanyard. In use the lanyard can be wrapped around the wrist

15 of the user as shown or can be applied around an adjacent fixed element (such as cleat on a boat) to ensure that the retrieval aid is not lost if it falls from the grasp of the user. The retention member 15 has a diameter less than that of the coupling 21 at the free end of the shaft in order to prevent its inadvertent disengagement from the shaft. The retention member 15 takes the form of a part

20 circular resilient element which can be resiliently deformed to be applied over the shaft.

According to a second embodiment of the invention the device can be used to extract a fish hook from the mouth or body of a fish once caught. It would be appreciated that the device according to the further embodiment would have a

25 shortened shaft but that the engagement member would take the same form as in the case of the first embodiment. The second embodiment may be capable of being mounted to the end of a resilient shaft of the form of the first embodiment in order that it can be used to retrieve lures in a similar manner to the first embodiment

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Throughout the specification, unless the context requires otherwise, the word "comprise" or variations such as "comprises" or "comprising", will be understood to imply the inclusion of a stated integer or group of integers but not the exclusion of any other integer or group of integers.

- 5 It should be appreciated that the scope of the present invention need not be limited to the particular scope of the embodiment described above. In particular the invention need not be limited to particular application described above in relation to the embodiments but can be utilised with any flexible elongate member or line to retrieve an object or manipulate a free end of the line

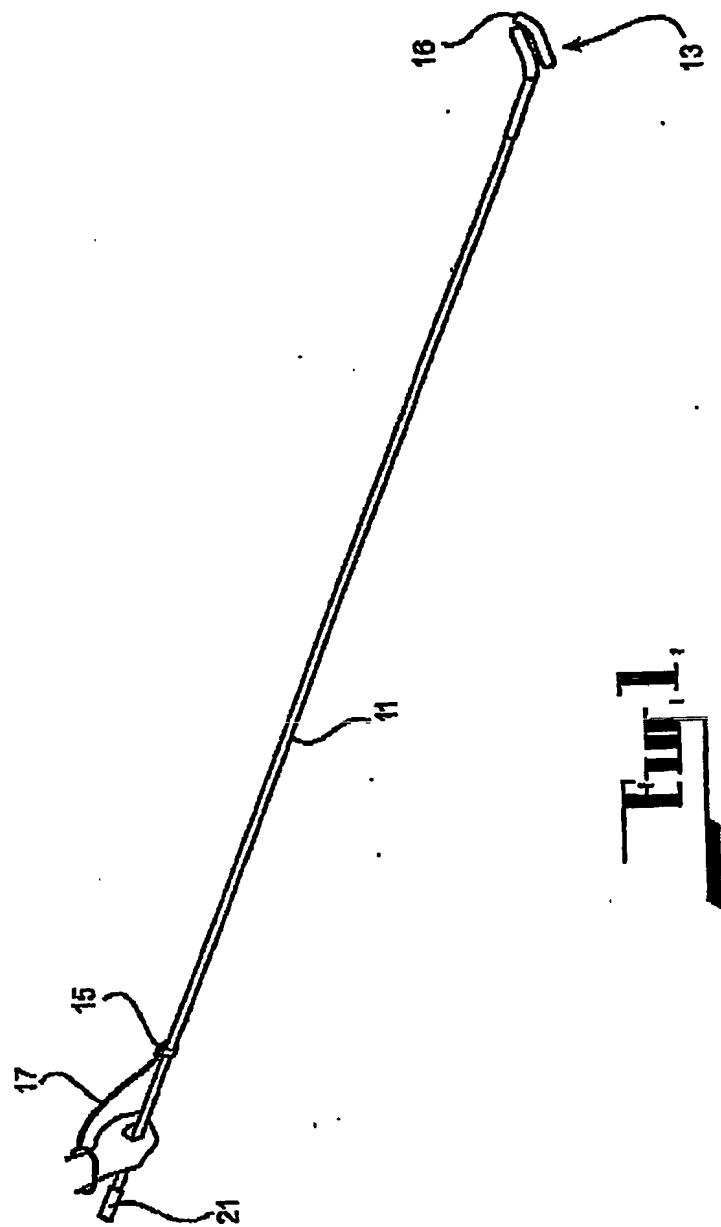
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Dated this fifteenth day of October 2003

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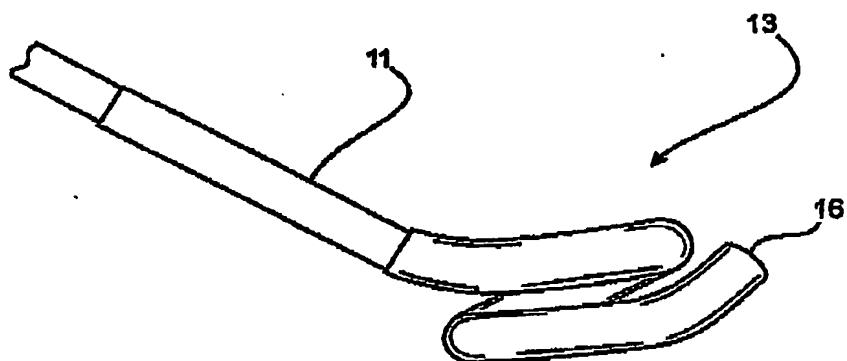


Fig. 2.

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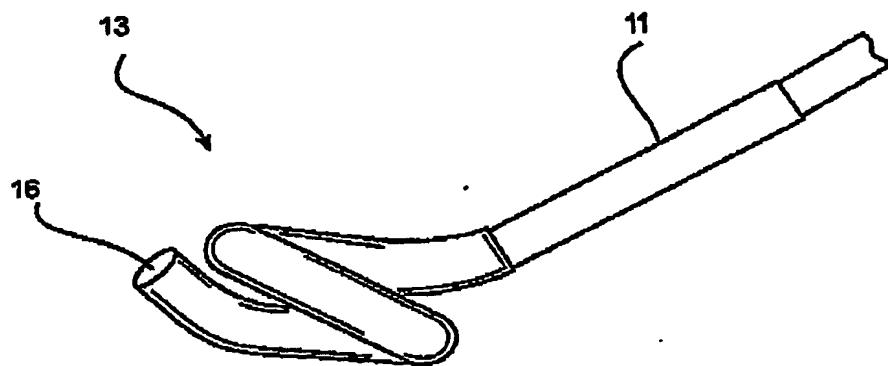


Fig. 3.

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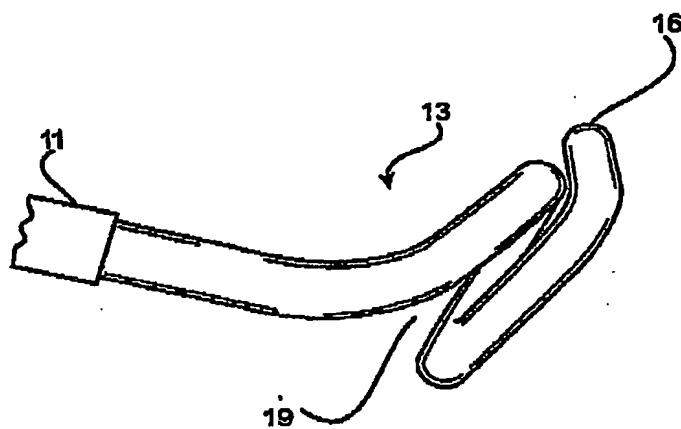


Fig. 4.

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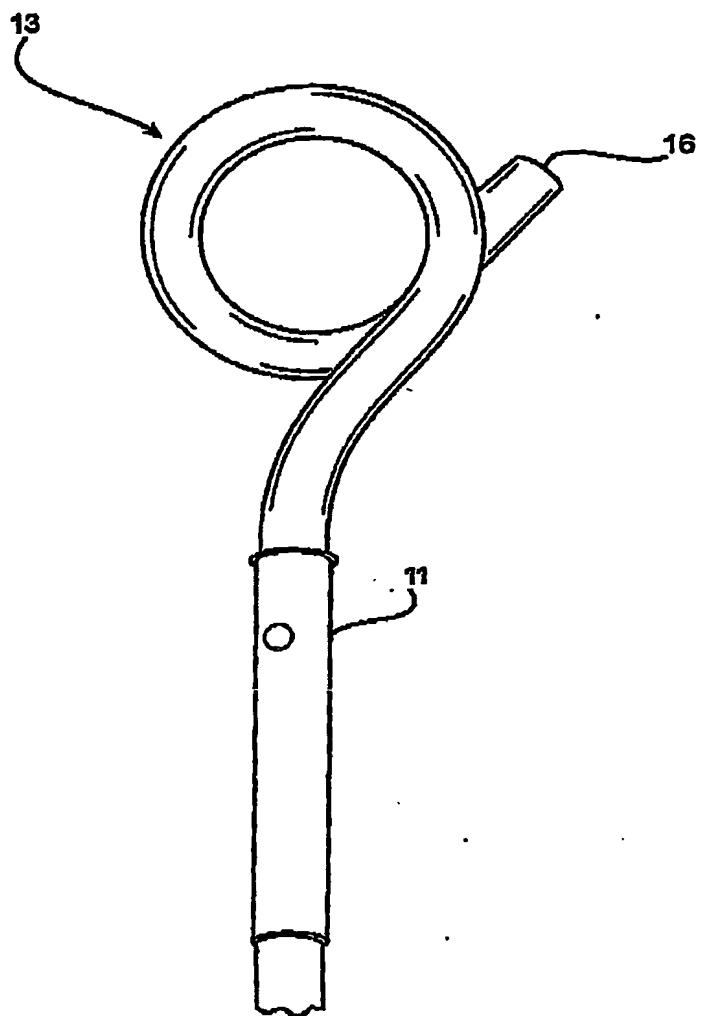


FIG. 5.

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